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Community, Economic, & Human Development Committee  
December 1, 2005

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. AUDIO CASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Paul Bowlen, at 10:01 a.m.. There was a quorum.

**Members Present**

Arguello, Daniel	SGVCOG
Barnes, Christine	City of La Palma
Bowlen, Paul ( <b>Vice Chair</b> )	City of Cerritos
Coerper, Gil	City of Huntington Beach
Davert, Doug	City of Tustin
Fesmire, Melanie	CVAG
Cathy Green	OCCOG
Jasper, Timothy	City of Apple Valley
Krause, Mary Ann	City of Santa Paula
Lantz, Paula	City of Pomona
Loveridge, Ronald	City of Riverside
McCallon, Larry	City of Highland
McCullough, Kathryn	OCCOG
Norby, Chris	Orange County
Nowatka, Paul	City of Torrance
Poe, Marilyn	City of Los Alamitos
Richardson, Laura	City of Long Beach
Ten, Mike	SGVCOG

**Members Not Present**

Dispenza, Mike	City of Palmdale
Edney, Jon A.	City of El Centro/IVAG
Hofmeyer, Daryl	City of Paramount
Kirby, Dan	SGVCOG
McSweeney, Susan	City of Westlake
Perry, Jan	City of Los Angeles
Reyes, Ed	City of Los Angeles
Robertson, Deborah ( <b>Chair</b> )	City of Rialto (Excused Absence)
White, Charles	WRCOG Subregion

**New Member(s)**

Daigle, Leslie	OCCOG
Parks, Bernard	City of Los Angeles

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chair Paul Bowlen called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The Vice Chair led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**3.0 REVIEW AND PRIORITIZE AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**4.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

The following consent calendar item was approved without objection.

**4.1 Approval Item**

4.1.1 Approve Minutes of November 3, 2005

**4.2 Receive and File**

4.2.1 CALCOG Growth Policies

**5.0 ACTION ITEMS**

None.

**6.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.2 El Monte Transit Village**

John Leung and Bart Doyle of the Titan Group presented the planned project for the El Monte Transit Village. The El Monte Transit Village is a project that will build housing and retail districts in an area close to Metrolink and bus hubs with the hope that it will encourage residents to use public transit instead of private vehicles. One of the most distinguishing factors about the El Monte Transit Village is that neither one resident nor business will be displaced with the project.

Mr. Leung stated that after a 3-day meeting between Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Caltrans, Metrolink, Foothill, City of El Monte, Titan Group and other consultants there was a general consensus among the participants to create this transit village. The project will be made up of approximately 800 residential units; retail, dining, entertainment will be around 300,000 square feet; hotel approximately 200 rooms, theater and event plaza; multistory office tower 350,000 square feet; accommodating an expansion renovation of the transit hub

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from MTA around 162,000 square feet, and greenbelt of various different parkland along the river. The overall goal for this project is to connect the people where they live, works, and play in the community.

Another special feature of the El Monte Village project is having the cooperation of both universities in the area, Cal Poly and Cal State Los Angeles are involved in creating what is know as a Regional Education Center.

Mr. Leung gave the Committee a general idea of the development schedule. Mr. Leung said the EIR process will be during 2006. MTA's administrative building will be created in 2006. In 2007 the first phase of the project is expected to be completed, public park renovation, mixed use component. In 2008 and 2009 the bulk of the mixed use and office development expects to be completed.

A large team of experts are working on the project such as: the lead consultant Dr. Bob Suzuki, Past President of Cal Poly; Gonzales and Goodell Architects; and Bart Doyle, Land Use Attorney; and the Titan Group have been in the community of El Monte for a number of years and their specialty is public-private partnership.

Bart Doyle spoke on the relationship between this project and the Compass 2% Strategy. Mr. Doyle stated that this transit facility generates the second highest number of daily of any facility in Southern California. There are 4 different bus systems that tie into this facility: MTA, Foothill, Greyhound, and trolley system. Mr. Doyle said they are now trying to workout a deal that relocate the Metrolink station from west of the Rio Hondo, about 100 yards from the major bus facility.

Mr. Doyle further stated that from a policy standpoint, this project should be looked at in conjunction with SB 821, by Senator Torlekson. The bill was designed to create major incentives for major infill and TOD. It has been pointed out to Senator Torlekson that there are a number of bus facilities in Southern California and that there is no reason to limit TOD concept to fixed rail, so Mr. Doyle believes Torlekson is now looking at this alternative. In summary, Mr. Doyle thought SCAG should keep SB 821 in mind when reviewing their legislative program.

The Vice Chair thanked Mr. Leung and Mr. Doyle for their report.

**6.3 Status Report on Regional Transportation Plan Update (RTP)**

Philip Law, SCAG Staff, provided the Committee with an update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update schedule. Mr. Law reported that the current RTP was adopted in April of 2004 and under the 3-year cycle the next RTP

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should be adopted in 2007. However, there is a provision in the new transportation bill called SAFETE-LU that allows MPOs such as SCAG, to move to a 4-year RTP cycle. Mr. Law asked for the Committee's support of pursuing a 2008 schedule. Mr. Law went on to say that there are several reasons for moving to a 2008 schedule first staff is currently updating the Regional Travel Demand Model; second there are a number of major corridor studies being conducted in the region and if SCAG were to adopt in 2007 these studies may not be incorporated into the RTP; third, SAFETE-LU broadens the planning requirement for the RTP and staff believes this would strengthen the SCAG RTP overall staff would like additional time to meet requirements, such as discussion of environmental mitigation, enhance public participation and added emphasis on security and system preservation, the fourth and perhaps, most important with synchronized RTP process and the air quality planning process, such as consistent use of transportation model and the most current planning data.

Mr. Law further stated that the conformity on the 2004 Plan expires in 2007 so SCAG would be facing what is known as a conformity lapse. However, SAFETE-LU allows for a 12-month grace period. Mr. Law said staff is working with other federal agencies to clarify the nature of this 12-month period because staff would like to continue doing amendments to the RTIP during this grace period if SCAG is not allowed to continue to do amendments then some transportation projects could not move forward.

**6.4 Regional Comprehensive Plan—Economy Chapter**

Bruce DeVine, SCAG Staff, gave the Committee a quick rundown of how the Economy Chapter was developed. The Economy Chapter was developed from first 1996 RCP&G, the 2004 RTP, Southern California Compass, and the "Southern California Regional Strategy for Goods Movement: A Plan for Action" (March 2005). Mr. DeVine gave a brief summary of the steps that led to the fourth version and explained the differences between it and the starting point.

Mr. DeVine went on to say the second round of the draft chapter received an entirely new "Overarching Theme Statement" drafted by the Task Force. The initial list of policy statements and recommendations submitted by staff to the Task Force was amended and added to in the second and two subsequent rounds.

The present version of the Chapter incorporates all edits and changes made by the Task Force to date. Mr. DeVine added in his opinion the Chapter now has a more human face than the original chapter. This version of the Chapter attempts to satisfy the needs of the population not just grow income, economic prosperity in the region should be shared, environmental concerns, a more up to date livable more human face. A particular change in the current Chapter was the title from

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“Economy and Education Chapter” to the *Economy Chapter* of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide. Mr. DeVine the Task Force believed that they could not do justice to the education portion needed for this chapter.

When asked who was on the Task Force that developed this Chapter Mr. DeVine, Mayor Loveridge was interested in who the members of the Task Force were.

After some discussion on the concerns for the Education portion of this Chapter Councilmember McCullough to be a volunteer to either join this task force or one that would look into the problems of education in the RCP&G. Mr. DeVine said he would pass the concerns to the Jacob Lieb who is the staff person in the charge of the RCP&G.

**6.5 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Economic Forecast**

Bruce DeVine gave the Committee an update on the status of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Economic Forecast Conference. This year the conference will be held at the Santa Anita Park, Thursday, January 26 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The will take place in the part of the park called the “Front Runner” restaurant. The conference will not conflict with the races as they don’t start until after the end of the conference. Mr. DeVine stated the conference will again feature two forecasts of the regional economy growth income from Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Long Beach, and then individual county forecasts.

The conference information will be put on CD and not in report as in the past. The keynote speaker has not been finalized, at this point the staff of working on getting Gary Ross. Mr. Ross wrote, directed and produced Seabiscuit. The movie does represent a big economic boost to the region.

Mr. DeVine addressed the reason for the theme “The Race Is On”, the race is on to improve housing, more energy independence, etc. Finally, Mr. DeVine stated that Regional Council members will be registered free but they must be pre-register. After some discussion and concerns about the fee Mr. Hasan Ikhrata stated that all members of the CEHD would be allowed to attend at no charge. The cost to the public would be \$110 per person.

Vice Chair Bowlen asked staff to look into the possibility of a tram tour. Mr. DeVine said he would look into the logistics of a tour.

**7.0 STAFF REPORT**

Hasan Ikhrata, Director of Planning and Policy, gave a status report on the “House Your Own” policy approach to the Regional Housing Needs. Today at the Administration and Executive Committees, Heather Cobb, SCAG Chief Operating Officer, presented the

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funding options for RHNA. The options were: RHNA should be funded through the general fund (approximately \$750,000 or \$1 million); don't do RHNA the way it was and go to the new approach, the new approach meaning House Your Own; use the blueprint money; ask for an extension to be consistent with the Regional Transportation plan, and the final option is to charge our own members (which in staff's opinion is not an options). Mr. Ikhrata felt staff would be back for action in February for a decision on the options to take, because by then staff would know what happened to the Blueprint grant application.

Joe Carreras, SCAG Staff, offered the Committee a working definition for the House Your Own option. He stated that this new RHNA is a much longer time horizon for communities to address housing needs, a 20-year rather than a 5-year horizon. We're also looking at this going from a numerically based approach to one that more policy-driven.

A community's housing goal is defined as its responsibility to address at least the need related to natural increase, or population growth within the jurisdiction, or workforce need resulting from job growth, whichever is higher. A Communities' housing goal is also defined in terms of their land use capacity; capacity is what's in a jurisdiction's updated general plan, land use and housing elements.

If a community is not able to designate within its own boundaries enough capacity to address the higher of those two housing needs then it would be obligated to work with surrounding communities, for instance, and cooperatively plan to address future housing needs together. These efforts would be supported through proposed incentives that would be made available through the State that would facilitate the trade or transfer of housing responsibility and goals that are consistent with a region's growth vision.

The key element in this new approach is the affordable housing component, because market rate housing is going to be built, the market will take care of its own, but the affordable and workforce housing need, how is that going to be addressed fairly and with the sense that everybody is being treated equitably, and without a lot of long distance commuting.

**6.1 Compass 2% Strategy Implementation Update**

Mark Butala, SCAG Staff, gave a brief update of the Compass 2% Strategy program. First staff has been involved in significant outreach throughout the region promoting the tools and resources available to local governments and the demonstration project partnership opportunities. Mr. Butala reported that staff had been making presentations to various groups and organizations, in particular, Mark Pisano had made a very well received presentation to the Urban Land Institute annual meeting held in Los Angeles. The organization was so impressed

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they wanted to use part of the material to create a letter to go out to their national audience.

Secondly, in May staff released the request for consultant assistance, after months in working with contract staff, lead consultants, Caltrans and others, a notice to proceed has been issued to Fregonese-Calthorpe and Associates for 2-year \$2.6 million contract to assist SCAG in the Compass implementation forecasting effort. The first priority will be convening a panel of experts to review the growth forecast that has been developed at the county and regional level; and secondly, on entering into some partnership agreements. SCAG has received 3 applications that meet the evaluation criteria the first project to be worked will be redevelopment potential analysis along the Exposition Light Rail extension working with Supervisor Yvonne Burke and her staff and some of her member cities.

**STAFF REPORT (Continued)**

Before the final staff report Vice Chair Bowlen welcomed two new members to the Committee: Councilmember Leslie Daigle representing Orange County COG; and Councilmember Bernard Park representing the City of Los Angeles.

Simon Choi, SCAG Staff, reported on the November 16-17 SCAG-Seoul Development Institute (SDI) International Symposium held in the SCAG offices. The theme of the Symposium was entitled: Global Gateway Regions South Korea and Southern California. The idea behind the symposium is for the organizations to learn from each other by exchanging planning ideas and strategy. At the meeting topics of discussions included global region concept, 2% Compass Strategy, and LA Lots. Also, the representative spoke on experiences occurring in Seoul which SCAG will post to the website at a later date. Two points to make about the symposium after the meeting Mr. Choi said he received comments that this symposium was very helpful. Secondly, the symposium was well attended, some 70 people from UCLA, USC and local governments. Mr. Choi said SDI planned to host a symposium possibly next year.

**8.0 CHAIR'S REPORT**

None.

**9.0 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Councilmember Richardson thought the Committee should get involved with the proposed infrastructure bond coming up next year. She would like the Committee to consider what recommendations the Committee should input.

Secondly, Councilmember Richardson suggested that the Committee should consider what role Senator Lowenthal from Long Beach could play to assist the organization.

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Senator Lowenthal has just been appointed the new Chair of the Senate Housing and Transportation Committee.


Supervisor Chris Norby thought the Committee should consider looking at the issue of professional sports teams Anaheim, LA., etc. and see if they do have any economic benefit to the region. Councilmember Parks suggested several sources for more information on this subject such as the LA City Controller's study on what the benefit Staples Center has been to the City; and, Pat Lynch, General Manager of the Coliseum, who has done a great deal of work on this subject. Councilmember Parks stated it comes down to how well you, as a jurisdiction, understand the economic benefits and negotiate with the team and the League.

When asked, Mark Pisano, Executive Director, did not think SCAG should take a position on this issue other than to note that our counterpart regions like New York and Chicago have done evaluations of the benefit of various sports franchises within their regions because their potential economic impact is significant.

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilmember McCullough and seconded by Councilmember Coerper to adjourn at 11:51 a.m. motion passed unanimously. The next CEHD meeting will be held January 1, 2006 at the SCAG office.

**Action Minutes Approved by:**

  
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Joe Carreras, Acting Manager  
Community Development